

Meeting Minutes (Final)

Frederick County Sustainability Commission

Wednesday July 21, 2010

3:00 pm

Third Floor Meeting Room, Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street, Frederick, MD

Present: Don Briggs, Lisa Gaver, Rich Maranto, Winifred Palmer, Fred Ugast, Annmarie Creamer, Catherine McKalip-Thompson, Steve Chafitz, Mark Lancaster, Kim Roberts. Staff: Hilari Varnadore

Excused Absences – Janice Wiles, Margie Lance, and Will Morrow

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Don Briggs called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Administrative Items

Review and approval of June minutes. Fred made the motion to approve the minutes with the correction of showing Mark and Kim absent. Kim seconded the motion. Motion carried. Catherine McKalip-Thompson was welcomed as the new Commission member. There was a brief discussion concerning the bylaws, Article V. Officers and Duties and it was felt the bylaws should be changed to reflect the language in the resolution establishing the commission. Elections should be in September of each year for both officers. Fred made the motion, Winnie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Commission Member Comments

There were no comments. Annmarie was welcomed back.

4. Draft Comprehensive Energy Review

Jessica Stoner, Project Manager and Austin Abraham, Director, both of Management Services Administration summarized the Plan and requested Commission member comment. Several Commission members had questions and comments and were satisfactorily answered. Fred read a motion which stated, “The Commission supports the adoption of a Comprehensive Energy Plan for Frederick County Government and the strategic goal adopted by the Board of County Commissioners to reduce the County’s use of non-renewable energy by 50% by 2024.

We recognize and applaud the County staff for their hard work in the development of the proposed Plan. The FCSC endorses the many aspects of the staff-recommended Comprehensive Energy Plan that are cost-effective and can reasonably be expected to both reduce the use of non-renewable energy and reduce the County’s energy costs over time.

We also recommend regular periodic reviews of emerging technologies and strategies that could be adopted by the County when such technologies can be considered cost-effective, including the

use of potential grant or other non-county funding sources that may be available. We recommend that the Board of County Commissioners establish an update schedule for the Comprehensive Energy Plan at least once every two years to report both on actual versus projected results and on the availability of additional cost-effective technologies and strategies that could be incorporated into the Plan Update.

We note that a significant portion of the staff-recommended Comprehensive Plan depends upon the availability of unspecified and unknowable future technologies, on the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits and/or the purchase of renewable electricity from a planned waste-to-energy plan.

We do not support the inclusion of these elements within the Comprehensive Energy Plan and recommend that the plan be revised to reflect the elements that can be considered cost-effective at the time of the Plan's adoption even though doing so will result in substantially less than a 50% projected reduction in non-renewable energy sources as reflected in the strategic goal.

We believe that the County can and should continue to maintain the long-term goal and reiterate its intention to continually strive for larger reductions over the planning period as specific additional technologies and strategies emerge that can reasonable be reviewed as cost-effective and reduce our reliance on non-renewable fuels.” Catherine offered an amendment to paragraph four, by adding after cost-effective “based on environmental, social and economic returns.”

Rich made a motion to accept the motion as amended. Mark seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments

6. Sustainability Commission Work Plan

Winnie discussed some of the main concerns and issues as being: watersheds, healthy forests, air quality, managing herbicides and fertilizers near waterways and wetlands, water conservation (and use of rain barrels), limiting times of watering lawns and also tree canopy.

7. Updates from the Sustainability Office

Hilari noted staff would have a display and booth at In the Streets in October.

8. Adjourn

Fred made a motion to adjourn, Rich seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Minutes submitted by Fayne Lebherz

Accepted on 9/15/2010 (Palmer, Ugast)